

Disaster Recovery Initiative
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**Louisiana Office of Community Development,
Division of Administration**

Louisiana Recovery Authority

**Action Plan Amendment No. 41 (First Allocation) – *Modifications to Local Government
Infrastructure Program***

Submitted to HUD: December 31, 2009



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Local Government Emergency Infrastructure

Eligible Activity: 105(a1) Acquisition, (a2) Public Facilities, (a4) Clearance, (a8) Provision of Public Services, (a9) Payment of Non-Federal Share, (a12) Planning and Capacity Building, (a17) Special Economic Development, and (a18) Housing Rehabilitation.

National Objective: Low to moderate income, elimination of slums/blight, urgent need.

Activity Amount: \$112,287,731

The purpose of this amendment is to increase the funds available to the Local Government Infrastructure Program from \$91,333,333 to \$112,287,731. The Local Government Infrastructure Program was created in the State of Louisiana's original Action Plan for the Use of Disaster Recovery Funds and amended in Action Plan Amendments 2, 10, 25, and 35.

This action plan amendment allocates an additional \$20,954,398 for the Local Government Infrastructure Program from the following sources in the first Katrina/Rita appropriation (PL-109-148):

- \$9,777,596 from funds allocated to the Road Home Startup that are no longer needed for that purpose;
- \$7,976,802 from funds allocated to the Small Firm Recovery Loan and Grant Program; and
- \$3,200,000 in currently unallocated funds.

There are still many public infrastructure recovery and rebuilding needs that are not covered by other recovery programs. The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) continues to track, monitor and identify these disaster-related gaps in community recovery and ways to address these gaps in order to revitalize and restore communities and neighborhoods, while making them more resilient to future storm events.

To address these funding gaps, the LRA has determined that CDBG funds from the Local Government Infrastructure program should be used to facilitate neighborhood and community recovery by assisting specific public entities in their continued rebuilding.

As such, the available funds in this program will be dedicated to projects in the hurricane affected zones that address specific recovery needs, as listed below, and that are either not eligible for other disaster programs, or for which there is insufficient funding in existing programs to address these critical needs. The determination of which projects will be funded under this program will be made by the Governor's Office based on analysis by the LRA staff. The LRA has identified the following four broad program areas for which there is insufficient funding in existing programs to address these critical needs.

- Critical Services – Including, but not limited to: public utilities, first responders, healthcare, community services
- Higher Education – Public institutions of higher education
- Economic Development – Large-scale initiatives to create and/or retain jobs

- Blight Elimination -- Demolition and slab removal of blighted properties that are not eligible for FEMA PA funding, and other blight-reducing activities.

Expenditures from the Local Government Infrastructure program must meet the following guidelines:

1. Projects demonstrate that they are not eligible for PA or any other source of funds;
2. That the funding to be provided is for cases of critical needs based on their meeting criteria developed by the LRA for the use of these limited funds;
3. That the funding be provided to projects within parishes which have adopted the latest available base flood elevations of the FEMA Flood Recovery Guidance, unless exceptions are granted by the LRA based on reasonable alternatives where safety is not minimized;
4. That the funding be provided within parishes or communities which have adopted, implemented or are in the process of implementing the new statewide building code standards adopted in the 2005 1st Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature;
5. That the projects receiving funding follow the best design for delivery of services in light of the population shifts and changed circumstances of many Louisiana communities; and
6. That each infrastructure project considers and/or proposes a mitigation plan to minimize damage in the event of future floods or hurricanes.

As stated in the initial action plan, each project funded will meet one of the three national objectives. Until applications are received and service areas and beneficiaries are known, the specific national objective cannot be determined.

Monitoring

This activity is considered to be a low risk activity. Monitoring will be performed by the Office of Community Development staff in accordance with the Infrastructure Monitoring Plan.